

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A catheter comprising:

a shaft comprising proximal and distal ends, a tip at the distal end of the shaft having a tapered portion over which the tip outer diameter is gradually reduced, a distal terminus, and two or more lumens, at least one of which is sized to receive a 0.035 inch guidewire,

wherein the distal terminus has an outer diameter measuring less than approximately 0.063 inch; and

the tapered portion of the tip has a length of approximately 3 millimeters or less.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A catheter as defined in claim 14, further comprising a cutting wire extending through at least a portion of one of the lumens and terminating adjacent to the distal tip.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A catheter as defined in claim 15, wherein the cutting wire exits the lumen along a portion of the shaft and reenters the lumen through a distal skive hole at a point adjacent the distal tip of the shaft;

a tip length is defined between the distal skive hole and the distal terminus measuring approximately 5 millimeters or less; and

the tapered portion is positioned between the skive hole and the distal terminus.

Claim 17 (Original): A catheter as defined in claim 15 further comprising a radiopaque marker at the distal tip.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A catheter as defined in claim ~~[[16]]~~ 17 wherein the radiopaque marker is contained in the lumen occupied by the cutting wire.

Claim 19 (Original): A catheter as defined in claim 14 wherein the shaft comprises three lumens.

Claim 20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Cancelled)

Claim 22 (Previously): A catheter as defined in claim 14 wherein at least two lumens extend to and open to the distal terminus of the catheter.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): A catheter as defined in claim 14 wherein the distal terminus has an outer diameter in the range of approximately .055 inch to .063 inch.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): A catheter as defined in claim 14 wherein the distal terminus has an outer diameter of approximately .059 inch or less.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A catheter comprising:
a shaft comprising proximal and distal ends, a tip at the distal end of the shaft having a tapered portion over which the tip outer diameter is gradually reduced, a distal terminus, and two or more lumens, at least one of which is sized to receive a 0.035 inch guidewire;
wherein the distal terminus has an outer diameter within the range of 0.055 inch to 0.063 inch; and
the tapered portion of the tip has a length within the range of 1.5 mm to 4.5 mm.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A catheter according to claim 26, wherein the distal terminus is approximately 0.059 inch.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A catheter according to claim 26, wherein the tapered portion of the tip is approximately 3 mm.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A catheter as defined in claim 15, wherein the cutting wire exits the lumen along a portion of the shaft and reenters the lumen through a distal skive hole at a point adjacent the distal tip of the shaft;

a tip length is defined between the distal skive hole and the distal terminus measuring within the range of 4.5 to 6 mm; and

the tapered portion is positioned between the skive hole and the distal terminus.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) A catheter as defined in claim 26, wherein the shaft comprises three lumens.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A catheter as defined in claim 26, wherein at least two lumens extend to and open to the distal terminus of the catheter.